



Take Harte, Tony!

BRITISH-born, Aussie-reared-dancer/model turned actor Tony Hamilton says the new *Mission: Impossible* series just might be the international breakthrough he has been seeking.

In the new series, which is being shot in Australia as part of a unique Channel 9, ABC TV, Paramount TV partnership, Hamilton is one of the new faces in the show. He plays Max Harte — the muscleman made famous by Peter Lupus in the original series, and described as “a laid back, agile team member who specialises in defining and solving the more hazardous physical challenges”.

The cast is new with the exception of Peter Graves, who is reprising his role as Jim Phelps, leader of the clandestine group which tackles an “impossible” assignment each week.

“I thought my international breakthrough would come when I took over from Jon Erik Hexum in the series *Cover Up* after he tragi-

Mission: Impossible proves the break this Oz actor has dreamed about

cally and accidentally shot himself to death,” Hamilton told TV WEEK, “but that was not to be. I hope *Mission: Impossible* will get me going again.”

Hamilton, who has just completed a series of TV ads for Swan Lager playing Don Swan, a rugged Aussie hero, has had an intriguing life.

Born in Liverpool, he was adopted as a child by an Australian father, who served in the RAF during the war, and an English mother who was a nurse. When Tony was three, the family moved to a sheep and dairy farm at Victor Harbor, near Adelaide.

Tony says his blond good looks have often worked against him in getting film roles.

“They tend to put you in little slots in Hollywood so that, frankly, my

looks and build have been a blessing and a curse,” he says.

Tony was going to be a dancer, but decided to leave the Australian Ballet Company in England to work as a model and would-be actor.

Another familiar face in the series is that of Thaa Penghlis, who grew up in Sydney in a large Greek family. He is best known for his long-running roles in TV soaps like *General Hospital* and *Days Of Our Lives*.

Thaa plays Nicholas Black, a university drama professor, who also is a master of disguise.

One of the most popular faces on *Mission: Impossible* is Peter Graves, who now has a full head of white hair. He is the only former cast member, although Phil Morris, son of Gregg Morris who was a regular on the series, plays Grant Collier, an electronics and engineering wizard.

Ivor Davis